

## Activists every where honor World AIDS Day

**1** PARIS — AIDS activists around the world marched, prayed and wore red ribbons Monday to mark the ninth World AIDS Day — while AIDS victims in poor nations did what they did every day: lived, struggled and died in obscurity.

On Monday, at least, their lives were honored.

In Europe, demonstrators observed the day with candlelight marches and songs; in Asia, governments announced new education and health programs aimed at fighting their growing AIDS problem.

Thousands marched in Paris at sundown, blowing whistles and carrying placards demanding more help for victims. Rallies were also held in other French cities.

"They are dying less in France, in the rich countries, but they continue to die more and more in the poor countries," said French Health Minister Bernard Kouchner.

Kouchner announced a plan to require that French doctors report the number of patients who test positive for the AIDS virus, though the names would remain confidential. "If we knew, in epidemiological terms, the number of HIV-positive people, this would vastly help us" fight AIDS, he said.

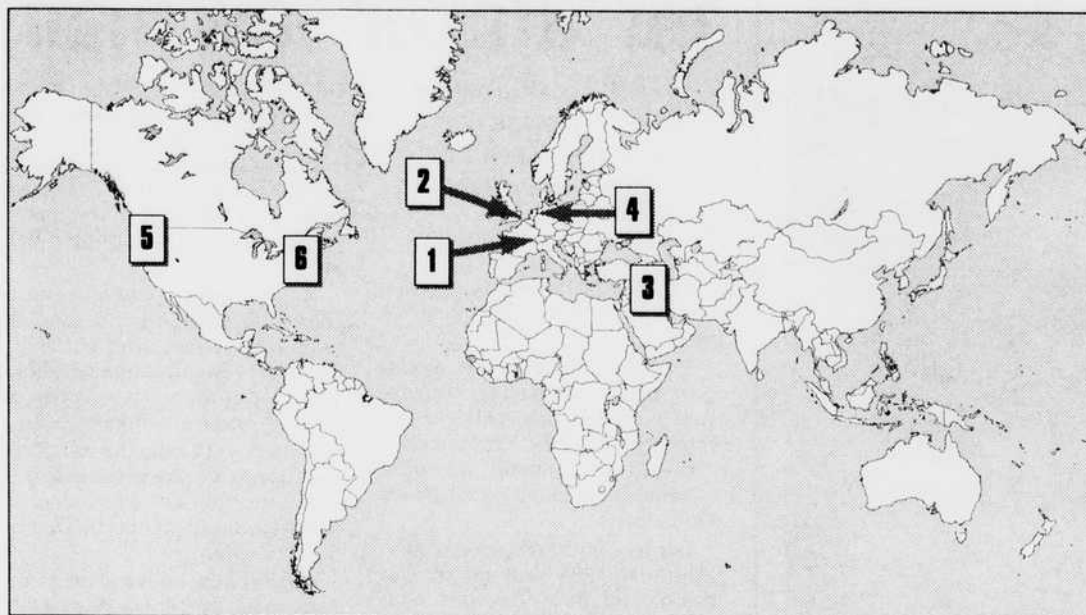
One in every 100 sexually active people age 15 to 49 worldwide has HIV, and among those infected, one in 10 doesn't know it, according to UNAIDS and the World Health Organization.

Figures released last week show doctors had underestimated the size of the epidemic by 30 percent: 30 million people now are infected with HIV and 16,000 more people are infected daily. Of the 2.3 million people expected to die this year of AIDS, 460,000 are children under 15.

This year's World AIDS Day emphasized the plight of HIV-infected children.

## Intruders attempt to reach Di's grave

**2** LONDON — Several people have broken into the Spencer family estate in search of souvenirs from Princess Diana's grave, the manager of Althorp said, according to a British tabloid.



"There are some sick people out there who would like to find a coffin and take off the brass plate on the coffin lid," estate manager David Horton-Fawkes was quoted as saying by The Sun newspaper.

He was quoted in Tuesday's edition as saying that several people climbed over walls and attempted to reach the island where Diana is buried. The newspaper said all intruders had been caught by estate staff.

After Diana's death Aug. 31 following a car crash in Paris, the Spencer family chose a burial spot on an island in a small lake at their Althorp estate in Northamptonshire. The exact location of the grave is not marked.

Horton-Fawkes said more security measures would be taken, The Sun said.

On Friday, the local government council said the Althorp estate had applied for permission to build a 6-foot-high fence around the island.

Officials at Althorp hope the fence will help ensure that the island and the lake are not damaged by visitors when the estate is opened to the public in July and August.

## Iraq hopes other nations will keep U.S. in check

**3** BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq said Monday it will reject any renewed oil-for-food program unless the United Nations ensures that the United States will not block humanitarian purchases allowed under the deal.

Iraq has "received commit-

ments" from other countries that the program's procedures will be changed to help keep Washington in check, Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf said. He did not elaborate.

Baghdad repeatedly has accused Washington of using its clout to delay approval for Iraqi purchases of food and other items allowed under the year-old program, which is set to expire Thursday.

## Russia agrees to have weapons inspected

**4** THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Russia committed itself Monday to international inspections of its 44,000 tons of chemical arms — a dangerous, decaying legacy of the Soviet era.

The pledge to allow the inspections this summer came at the opening of an international meeting to review the impact of a treaty banning chemical weapons, which took effect in April.

Given the size of Russia's stockpile, its cooperation is key to the success of the chemical weapons convention. While it had been among the 165 nations that approved the ban in 1993, it ratified the treaty only recently and signed it only last month.

One of the main subjects for discussion during the five-day meeting is how Russia will pay for the estimated \$5 billion destruction of its aging stockpile.

"It's very well understood that the major share would come from

our own budget," said Sergei Batanov, a member of the Russian delegation — but added that Russia was looking for help from other nations.

He said other countries have pledged up to \$150 million to help Russia destroy its arsenal as required under the treaty. Out of that amount, \$100 million will come from the United States.

Already, 105 countries have ratified the treaty, including the United States and all four other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

## WSU professor drops lawsuit against police

**5** PULLMAN, Wash. — A Washington State University journalism instructor said Monday that he was withdrawing a lawsuit seeking access to police information.

David Demers said a recent Supreme Court decision allowing police broad discretion in withholding information rendered moot his lawsuit against the Pullman Police Department.

"The Washington State Supreme Court has basically said that police can refuse to release all investigatory data from police report files," said Demers, an assistant professor at WSU. "Essentially, it means that the police are not required to provide information even on routine crimes, such as thefts and car accidents. They can operate in total secrecy in Washington."

The court ruled Nov. 20 that police could withhold informa-

tion if it were deemed part of an ongoing investigation — and gave police agencies wide latitude in determining what is and is not an investigatory document.

The ruling was criticized by newspaper and public-access advocates, who said it could close the door on disclosure of even the most routine information.

Demers alleged in his lawsuit that Pullman police had unfairly withheld information from students seeking it for a class assignment.

But the department contended it already had made available all of the information being sought.

## Oil futures prices fall in fear of market glut

**6** NEW YORK — Oil futures prices fell sharply Monday on concerns that OPEC's decision to raise its production ceiling will create a glut on world markets. Gasoline and heating oil futures also dropped.

The contract for January crude oil fell 49 cents to settle at \$18.66 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The 11-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed over the weekend to boost its official production ceiling to 27.5 million barrels a day, up from 25.033 million.

Many members of the group were already exceeding their individual quotas, so actual production will not increase by that much. OPEC exports more than a third of the world's oil.

Also pushing down crude oil prices were indications that Iraq may soon be allowed to sell more oil under the United Nations' oil-for-food program.

The U.N. secretary-general, Kofi Annan, suggested Monday that the Security Council consider increasing the amount of oil Iraq can export every six months to buy food and medicine to \$3 billion, up from \$2.1 billion. The export plan is an exception to an embargo imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The January contract for unleaded gas fell .86 cents to 56.25 cents a gallon. January heating oil fell 1.58 cents to 52.71 cents a gallon, and January natural gas fell 19.0 cents to \$2.768 per 1,000 cubic feet.

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